CLAIMS

1. A method of deactivating Der p and/or Der f allergens, the method comprising dispersing into an airspace an allergen-deactivating amount of an allergen-deactivating compound (hereinafter the "deactivant"), the deactivant being dispersed as a vapour from a vessel in contact with a hotplate, the hotplate being at a temperature of at least 100°C.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the hotplate is at a temperature of at least 130°C.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2, wherein the hotplate is at a temperature of up to 300°C.

4. A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein the hotplate is at a temperature of up to 250°C.

5. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is dispersed into the airspace over an extended period.

6. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant is selected from:

a terpene hydrocarbon;
a citrus oil;
a mint oil;
bois de rose oil;
oil of jasmine;
frankincense;
oil of bergamot;

oil of lemon grass;
or a component thereof.

7. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises a terpene hydrocarbon.

8. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises ß-pinene.

9. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the deactivant comprises orange oil or a component thereof.

10. A method as claimed in any preceding claim, wherein the vessel is an upwardly open vessel.

11. The use of apparatus for deactivating Der p and/or Der f allergens at a locus, the apparatus comprising an allergen deactivant within a vessel, and a heat source used to accelerate the vaporization of the deactivant, the heat source being a hotplate in contact with the vessel, the hotplate being at a temperature of at least 100°C.

12. An apparatus for deactivating Der p and/or Der f allergens comprising a vessel containing an allergen deactivant and a hotplate in contact with the vessel, the hotplate being at a temperature of at least 100°C.

13. A method substantially as hereinbefore described with particular reference to the accompanying examples.